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NEWSBYTES

Captain selection list

The calendar year 1999D Central Captain Line, Chaplain, Judge Advocate General, Medical Service, Biomedical Sciences and Nurse Corps boards selected 3,367 lieutenants for promotion to captain.

The list of promoted officers is scheduled for release tomorrow. It will be posted by 2 p.m. CST, Nov. 18 on the Air Force Personnel Center Internet site, <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil>. (Courtesy AFPC News Service)

Survey team compiles data

Turning raw information into change — that will be the focus for the next few months as the Air Force Chief of Staff Survey team studies millions of bytes of data received in response to the 1999 Chief of Staff Survey.

The CSAF Survey, a poll to gain understanding of quality of life and organizational climate issues, ended Nov. 12, with an estimated 33 percent of the Air Force's active duty airmen and civilians responding. It is designed to provide commanders, first sergeants, command chief master sergeants and senior civilian leaders feedback necessary to improve areas under their control. Final reports on the survey's results will be released to commanders by late January.

C-5 transports rescue team

A C-5 Galaxy from Dover Air Force Base, Del., transported a 70-person search and rescue unit from the Fairfax County, Va., Urban Search and Rescue Team to Istanbul, Turkey, Nov. 13.

The team responded to an earthquake measuring approximately 7.2 on the Richter Scale that hit Turkey Nov. 12. The 70-member team included five dogs, 60,000 pounds of equipment and three vehicles.

Air Force restructures Aviator Continuation Pay

WASHINGTON — The Air Force has restructured its Aviator Continuation Pay program for fiscal 2000 in hopes of stemming the largest sustained pilot exodus in recent history, Air Force officials announced today.

During the past three years, the Air Force has lost more than three experienced pilots for every two produced.

"This restructured ACP program capitalizes on the flexibility and latitude given by Congress," said Lt. Gen. Donald Peterson, deputy chief of staff for personnel. "It allows us to aggressively capitalize on a three-year window of opportunity to protect our ability to man operational cockpits and war-planning staff requirements."

The Air Force's goal is to significantly improve each year groups' retention by executing ACP to the maximum extent of this



In the last three years, the Air Force has lost more than three experienced pilots for every two produced.

law. Specifically, the Air Force FY00 program:

- establishes agreement options at three or five years; or long-term agreements out to 20 or 25 years of aviation service
- sets rates for three-year agreements at \$15,000 per year; five-year or long-term at \$25,000 per year

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AF to get six F-22s in 2002



The Air Force will acquire six test F-22 aircraft in 2002 with funds provided by Congress in the budget resolution passed Oct. 5.

By Staff Sgt. Cynthia Miller

Headquarters United States Air Force

WASHINGTON — The Air Force will acquire six test F-22 aircraft in 2002 with funds provided by Congress in the budget resolution passed Oct. 5.

In the resolution, Congress delayed production of the F-22 from December 1999 to December 2000, and cut funding by \$560 million to make the Air Force justify the F-22's cost and prove its technology.

Instead of getting six production aircraft to complete operational testing, the Air Force will now receive six test aircraft.

"These six airplanes will be operational test and evaluation airplanes, because they come from re-

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Letters to the editor

U.S. Air Force Online News publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week. Send your letter to the U.S. Air Force Online News staff by completing the online form at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/>

Due to the number of letters, not all letters can be published. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Only letters accompanied by a valid name and email address will be considered.

Take responsibility before blaming

Regarding "Service before self, but not before family," [Nov. 10], I think everyone dreams of having a family, and I can't fault that, but it seems the writer's timing was a bit premature. It is not breaking news that two E-4s with four children would have a tough time. ... the senior airmen put themselves in a position where they were forced to make critical decisions about their future based on their situation. Please don't place blame on the Air Force. ... I believe the Air Force tries to help us with the benefits it provides. We are then responsible for what we bring to the table. They brought a bunch.

Staff Sgt. Brian R. Murzyn
Air Force Operations Center

Want more money - get promoted

In response to "Pay table hard to swallow," [Nov. 10] I disagree with the view that the Weighted Airman Promotion System only rewards those with a talent for testing. ... I agree that the Enlisted Performance Report system is inflated but this at least levels the playing field for all of us who must

test. We know the only way to make more money is to get promoted, so taking, or making time to study makes more sense than waiting on our government to give us a small percentage pay raise each year. With over 1,500 days left I'm sure the writer could manage a few hours a day to get that next stripe.

David Most
Ramstein AB, Germany

Want to get promoted - study

Regarding "Pay table reform hard to swallow," [Nov. 10], I take issue with the statement, "testing for stripes only rewards those people who have a talent for testing..." . If the writer can honestly say he put in the effort to study for promotion and all other factors being equal, he may have gotten promoted. If you want to get promoted bad enough, you have to put in the time and effort to achieve this. Instead of counting down the days to separation, I'd suggest setting up a study routine to get promoted in one of the next four cycles — good luck!

David J. Vermilyea
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

Staying in or getting out Make an informed, fact-based decision

By Brig. Gen. Norman Seip
4th Fighter Wing

It's no surprise when I tell you that in order to accomplish the Air Force missions, we depend on a highly trained, dedicated and professional enlisted force that spans the entire rank structure.

And, in order to have an enlisted force structure that has the right skills, experience and supervisory levels in place, the Air Force has retention goals for first, second-term and career airmen.

Specifically, we look for 55 percent of our first-term airmen to re-enlist, 75 percent of those to stay on for a second re-enlistment and 95 percent of those to become career airmen.

So, how have we fared in meeting these retention goals?

Well, up until a year and a half ago, we had met or exceeded all three goals for more than 15 years. Since then, the Air Force has been on a downward trend. We have not met the first two goals, and are barely holding our own with regard to career airmen.

So, why am I telling you all this? Quite simply, during the next three years, more than 90 percent of the Air Force's enlisted force will come up for re-enlistment. The choice each of you makes will have an impact on you personally and on the type of enlisted force structure we end up with when the counting is over.

So, do I now use the remainder of this column to cheerlead about the Air Force and list all the reasons why you should re-enlist? No, I won't do that to you. Instead, I'll ask each of you to do one thing for me and for our Air Force — make an informed, fact-based decision.

Specifically, separate fact from fiction. Determine where you want to be not just a year from now, but five, 10 and 20 years in the future with regard to salary, benefits, responsibility, quality of life, quality of job, level of education, leisure time and security.

Put dollars against both the Air Force and the job you are contemplating. Take the time to list the positives and negatives of both the Air Force and the career you would pursue if you separated.

Take into consideration those things we at times take for granted — free financial, legal, family, spiritual and wellness counseling and each of their associated services.

Then, add it all up and make your decision.

If you decide that the positives for the Air Force outweigh what the civilian world has to offer and you re-enlist — great — we're glad to have you on the team.

If it comes out the opposite, then I'll be waiting for you at the front gate to shake your hand and thank you for your outstanding service to our nation and to our Air Force.

Every one of us will be faced with a career decision some day. Whether it's after four, six, 10 or 20 years, it's coming so make it an informed, fact-based one. You owe it to yourself.





Anthrax

Misinformation puts airmen at risk

By Staff Sgt. Cynthia Miller

Headquarters United States Air Force

WASHINGTON — Since the Department of Defense made vaccination mandatory, anthrax has become a hot topic of conversation.

Many service members — active, Guard and Reserve — may have jeopardized their military careers due to information gained from potentially unreliable sources. Pilots, lately the most visible challengers of the anthrax vaccination program, stand to risk the most.

Or do they?

“Much of our earning capacity as airline pilots occurs in the final years that we serve with the airline,” said Brig. Gen. Myron Ashcraft, Chief of Staff, Headquarters Ohio Air National Guard and United Airlines pilot. “For that reason it is imperative that we reach age 60, mandatory retirement age, still able to pass a physical examination every six months.”

In recent testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Benjamin Gilman, R-N.Y., said, “25 of the 48 pilots at Stewart Air National Guard Base, N.Y., have submitted resignations to be held in the event mandatory anthrax vaccination goes forward. Most of them happen to be airline pilots, very much concerned about their physical conditions following vaccination.”

This statement speaks directly to a common rumor in the flying world that civilian

airlines won't hire military pilots who have taken the anthrax vaccine.

“I have been a commercial airline pilot since 1978 and can assure you that anything that might jeopardize my career has my full attention,” General Ashcraft said.

But according to the general, the anthrax vaccination is a non-issue for commercial airlines and the Federal Aviation Administration's Aeromedical Certification Division. Taking the anthrax shot has no effect on airline hiring and no effect on being granted a civilian medical certificate, he said.

“United (Airlines) does not even ask if you have had the shots,” he said.



So where can a pilot or service member turn for factual, objective information on anthrax and the vaccination? One place is the Anthrax Tool Kit sponsored by the U.S. Air Force Medical Service.

Although written for commanders to use

when briefing members, the site provides information on medical deferrals, exemptions, frequently asked questions, religious waivers, and consumer information.

This site is currently restricted to “.mil” hits only, and must be accessed from a computer authorized for access to .mil sites. However, Air Force officials are working to release the site into the public domain.

Until then, the Tool Kit is available at <http://sgwww.satx.disa.mil/moasgop/restricted/ccaindex.cfm>.

Study suggests changes to Reserve component benefits

WASHINGTON — A study recommending sweeping changes in current statutes and policies may potentially affect the health care benefits and entitlements for Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members.

The recommendations are to help ensure medical treatment, entitlements and force health protection measures for Reserve component members are sufficient at a time when reservists are increasingly being called upon, and when they are increasingly going in harm's way.

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen sent the report to Congress Nov. 8. “The findings of this report are compelling and important because the changed nature of today's total force requires a new approach to providing medical care to our Reservists,” he said.

“At the core of this new approach is the notion that performance of duty, not length of duty, establishes risk and exposure to harm. In other words, we will treat injury or illness, sustained in the line of duty, regardless of the duty status in which the individual is serving,” Secretary Cohen said.

Some of the study's recommendations have already been adopted by Congress and are included in the Fiscal 2000 National Defense Authorization Act, signed into law Oct. 5.

This article available in its entirety online.

AF plays leading role in DOD forensics lab

By Tech. Sgt. R.R. Getsy

Headquarters United States Air Force

WASHINGTON — The senior noncommissioned officer figured he had taken care of everything. He had committed a horrible crime and the evidence implicating him lay contained within two small, circular, computer floppies — now spliced into more than 20 pieces by pinky shears and beyond any hope of repair.

Or, so he thought.

The discs now lay on a pristine, white cloth in front of the Air Force computer forensics examiner. Using state-of-the-art me-

dia splicing technology, examiners were able to painstakingly put back together the mutilated remains of the discs. A difficult feat, since the pieces were all mixed up. Vital evidence was recovered which prosecutors were ultimately able to use to convict the NCO.

Another criminal case in which digital evidence played a major role.

Cases like this and the work of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations' computer crime lab made the Defense Department realize the proliferation of digital media dictated a need for a sole DOD-level agency to analyze digital and computer data from

criminal investigations.

And, so, on Sept. 24, 1999, the Defense Computer Forensics Laboratory was dedicated. The AFOSI, recognized for its leading role in computer crime forensics, is the executive agent for the laboratory, located in Linthicum, Md., a suburb of Baltimore. The laboratory is the DOD's sole, purely computer forensic agency. Its clients range from the armed forces to other federal agencies, including NASA, the Defense Investigative Service Agency, and the Defense Logistics Agency.

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AF to get six F-22s in 2002

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search and development funds, but they will be production airplanes," said Maj. Gen. Claude Bolton, executive officer for fighter and bomber programs.

"You won't be able to tell the difference between what that aircraft will look like in a year or two, vice what it was going to look like before we had to change the 'color' of money," he said.

With an aging fleet of F-15s, and the ability of adversaries and allies to match technology, the Air Force has embarked on a modernization program to maintain its edge on military strength and air dominance.

According to General Bolton, the F-15 is on par with four other aircraft, including the Russian MiG-29 and MiG-35, the French Mirage 2000 and the Euro-fighter.

"There's only so much you can do after 30 years with an air frame," the general said. "We've had a 100.5 to zero kill ratio with the [F-15]. We've not lost any F-15s to enemy fire. That's obviously something we want to continue into the next century."

The Air Force plans to buy 339 F-22 aircraft to replace the F-15 fleet. General Bolton said he expects the F-22 to give the United States the edge in air dominance for the next 30 years or more.



The F-22 is designed to face modern adversarial aircraft equipped with advanced air-to-air missile systems and against integrated air defense systems with improved surface-to-air missiles.

"That is a threat we have not faced yet with the F-15," General Bolton said. "And we don't want to because the results would not be good."

"What will allow us to face that threat is the F-22. That's what it was designed to do."

So we'll be able to continue what we've enjoyed, which is air dominance. That's not just going up and controlling part of the sky, but going up and totally dominating the air battle to the point where if someone does come up, they know we can take them down."

The six F-22s, slated for delivery in 2002, will cost the Air Force nearly \$85 million per plane, and will be based at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.

"The reason the Air Force is pushing so hard on this aircraft is that it is truly a cornerstone for us," the general said. "If we don't control the air, we cannot protect AWACs [Airborne Warning and Control Systems]; we cannot protect Joint STARS; we cannot protect other force packages; and consequently, we can't help our colleagues on the ground or on the water."

AF plays leading role in DOD forensics lab

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The laboratory staff processes and analyzes computer data from counterintelligence, criminal and fraud cases. It also conducts research and development on digital evidence analysis tools. "Computers are everywhere," said David Ferguson, DCFL director, "and digital evidence is everywhere, and in most cases, there is a digital link ..."

Mr. Ferguson said the lab is composed of

three main branches: media analysis, intrusion analysis, and research and development.

"Media analysis is the crux of the laboratory," said Karen Matthews, deputy director of the DCFL. In this area, the largest of the three branches, examiners receive evidence from the field in the form of computer floppy disks, tapes, hard drives, and other digital media.

This article available in its entirety online.



AF restructures ACP program

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■ continues upfront payments for first-time eligibles

■ allows those under an existing ACP agreement to convert to the new program's five-year or long-term agreements on their FY00 anniversary date

■ expands the program to colonels with less than 24 years of aviation service

General Peterson stressed, "A robust ACP is an integral part of the Air Force's multi-faceted retention game plan that responds to our changing environment. While not the primary reason for separating, exit surveys identified aviator compensation as a significant factor in a pilot's decision to separate."

He added senior leadership is not singling out pilots. "We're concerned about retaining all members, officers and enlisted," he said.

"Many career fields have unique retention factors. In addition to the basic pay increase of 4.8 percent in January 2000 and pay table reform in July 2000, we are addressing several retention concerns with some form of additional compensation," he said. "For example, special duty assignment pay, hazardous duty incentive pay, selective reenlistment bonuses, career enlisted flight incentive pay, and foreign language proficiency pay, to name a few."

This article available in its entirety online.



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